

[25 July, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) By virtue of Section 10(4) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (No. 20 of 1990), while investigating any matter relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws or a matter relating to deprivation of women's rights, the National Commission for Women has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit, particularly in respect of summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath and requiring the discovery and production of any document, among others. The National Commission for Women enjoys the same powers in this respect as the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

#### **CAG's report on ICHR**

618. SHRI N.R. DASARI:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI BACHANILEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged irregularities and mismanagement at the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) as has been revealed by the latest report of the Comptroller and Accountant General (CAG);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered in the matter; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Indian Council of Historical Research, Director General of Audit conducted annual audit in respect of the grants in aid given to ICHR during 2001 -2002. In the audit

report, certain financial irregularities have been pointed out. ICHR has communicated its para-wise replies in this regard to Director General of Audit.

Ministry of Human Resource Development has asked ICHR to pursue the matter with audit and take appropriate action, where necessary.

**Literacy target**

619. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:  
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO, which was initially optimistic about India's claims of total literacy by decade-end, has now started expressing reservations;

(b) if so, whether a recent report of the UN body says universal elementary education may elude the country even around 2015, five years after Government's deadline;

(c) if so, what were the main reasons put forward by them; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to see that India achieves literacy target by 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) UNESCO has brought out a EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2002 in which India has been shown at serious risk of missing the EFA goals of Universal Primary Education and Total Literacy by 2015. The conclusions drawn in this Report are based on data available to UNESCO on the parameters of net enrolment ratio in primary schools, gender parity as per gross enrolment ratio in primary schools and the percentage of adult literacy. The data used by UNESCO for these parameters were either outdated or not available to UNESCO as far as India is concerned. Further, initiatives taken in the recent years like launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and restructuring of literacy programme have not been taken into account for arriving at the conclusions.